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Collector sufficiently in advance to enable the Collector to take action in time under section 52 (*b*) of the Act to lease the lands to them as the landholders were refusing to give the lands to the tillers of the soil on the ground that rent has been fixed by the Government, which of course is not in favour of *janmis*."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I think the hon. Member is making a speech. Let him put it in the form of a question."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" It is not a speech, Sir. I am explaining the question."

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No explanation is necessary, Sir. He may put it in the form of a question."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The point is this, Sir. Are the Government aware that in spite of the fact that the tenants of Malabar applied to the Collector of Malabar in time and sufficiently early also to take action under section 52 (*b*) of the Malabar Tenancy Act, the Government did not take any action in the matter and if so, will the Government see to it that suitable action is taken immediately? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, it is wrong to say that the Government are not taking any action. Recently also the Government passed orders empowering all Revenue Officers even of the rank of Deputy Tahsildars to go into the question. We are trying to do our best, but the thing will naturally take some time."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, I want to know how many notices were issued by the Collector during these three years and whether any inch of ground was granted on lease under that provision? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" To furnish the exact number, I should like to have notice, Sir."

Levy of property-tax on the private properties of the ex-Ruler of Pudukkottai.

* 316 *Q.*—Sri M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Municipal Commissioner, Pudukkottai, made any representations to the Government regarding levy of house-tax for the palaces and buildings belonging to the ex-Ruler of Pudukkottai ;

(*b*) if so, the nature of the proposals ; and

(*c*) the action taken by the Government thereon?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

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(b) & (c) On a reference by the Commissioner, Pudukkottai Municipality, in May 1949, he was informed that the private properties of His Highness the Raja of Pudukkottai in the municipality might be assessed to property-tax from the 1st April 1949, the date from which the Madras District Municipalities Act was extended to the municipality. But as the Agreements of Merger and the Covenants establishing the various unions of States provide that the rulers and certain members of their families would be entitled to all personal privileges enjoyed by them immediately before the 15th August 1947 and as the Government of India had instructed that the practice prevailing before the 15th August 1947 should be continued as regards exemption from local taxation and that in the event of house-tax being levied in or extended to the areas formerly constituting States, the main residential palaces of the rulers should be exempt from this tax, the Commissioner was advised to exempt the residential palaces of the Raja in the municipality from property-tax, if they were exempt before the 15th August 1947. On the representation of the Private Secretary to the Raja, the question of exemption of all the immovable properties of the Raja from municipal property-tax was further examined in detail by Government. Since all the buildings owned by the Raja were exempt from local taxation prior to the merger, Government decided that all the buildings declared or allotted as private properties of the Raja should continue to be exempt from tax irrespective of the fact that some of the buildings were fetching rent after the merger. The Commissioner, Pudukkottai Municipality, was advised accordingly to exempt from local taxation all buildings allotted or declared by the Government as private properties of His Highness the Raja of Pudukkottai."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" புதுக்கோட்டை நகரத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால், பாதி நகரத்திலுள்ள பங்களாக்களும் கட்டடங்களும் பழைய மகாராஜாவை சேர்ந்தவை என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களே ஒப்புக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார். அந்தக் கட்டிடங்களுக்கும், பங்களாக்களுக்கும் வரி விலக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால், அரசர் அந்தக் கட்டடங்களிலிருந்து மாத்திரம் வாடகை வசூலித்து வருகிறார். அதனால் முனிசிபாலிடிக்கு வருமானம் குறைகிறது. இந்தக் கட்டடங்களுக்கு வரி விதிக்க மத்திய சார்க்காருக்கு இந்த மாகாண சர்க்கார் தெரிவித்தார்களா இல்லையா? அப்படி இல்லையானால் ஏன் தெரிவிக்கவில்லை ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, this is a matter governed by the agreement we have entered into with the Raja of Pudukkottai at the time of the merger. I think we will have to honour the commitments we have already made. The question of revision of these agreements will come up sometime afterwards, when I am sure the question raised by the hon. Member will be considered."